

How to Care for a Patriot Hosta Plant

Hosta 'Patriot'

SELECT SITE:

Light Requirements: Part Shade (4-6 hrs/day) to Full Shade (more than 6 hrs/day); a site with morning sun or all day dappled sunshine is ideal.

This perennial will grow larger; space 24 in. away from other plants and/or structures.

Thrives in average, consistently moist, organically rich soil in a non-windy site.

Garden Uses: Shade garden or massed in woodland areas; primarily grown for their beautiful foliage.

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 3,4,5,6,7,8

PLANT PREP:

Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant "breathe". Remove plastic bag, tape, and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

HOLE PREP:

Dig saucer shaped hole. The depth is determined by measuring the height of the roots from root flare to bottom. The width is 2-3 times the root ball diameter. Using these calculations, the ideal hole for the new bush will be approximately 10" tall by 24" wide.

PLANTING:

Put garden soil in a wheelbarrow or on a tarp. Mix the garden soil with equal amounts of mulch, peat moss, and potting soil. Place plant in hole and adjust for aesthetics. Hold in place while adding more soil, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the shrub deeper than it has already been growing. Water well immediately after planting. Mulch evenly to a depth of 2-3 inches being sure to stay at least 4" away from its trunk.

FUTURE MAINTENANCE:

Water is best applied to the soil underneath the leaves rather than on the foliage itself. If desired, fertilize in spring when new growth begins. Apply 2 tbsps. of an all-purpose slow release fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the plant at least 6" away from its stems. Divide plants as needed in either spring before the leaves appear (usually the easiest time) or in fall. Leaves can be damaged by hail storms or commonly eaten by deer.

